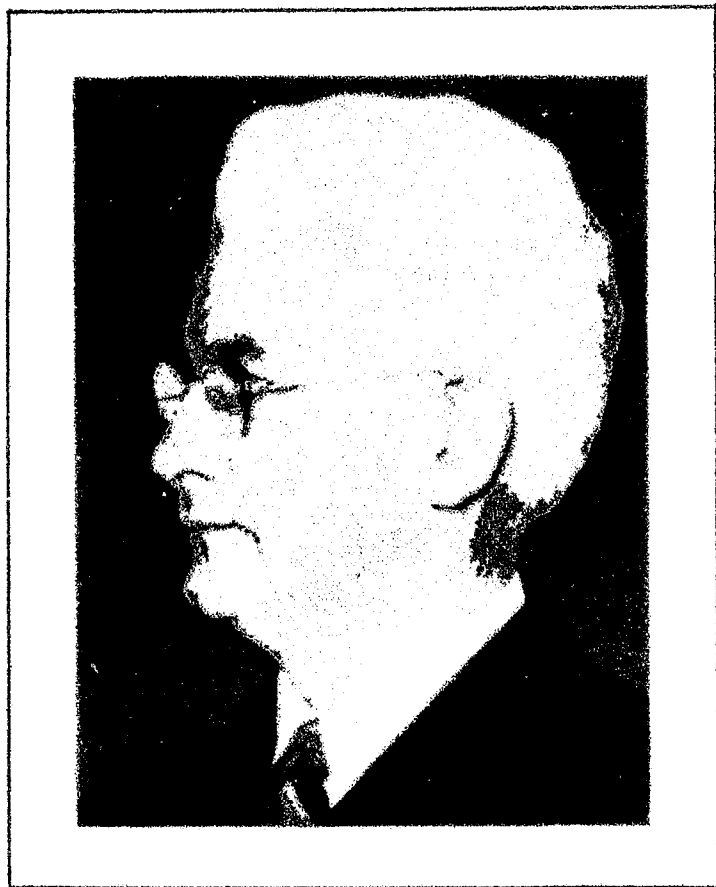


University of Notre Dame

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

March 18, 1941

PROFESSOR, LAWYER, STATESMAN



Early Saturday morning at St. Joseph's Hospital, God called to Himself a distinguished Christian gentleman, Eugene J. Payton.

To the world he was known as a prominent State Senator and a Professor of Economics and Business Law; to his friends he was affectionately known as "Gene"; to his students, likewise affectionately, he was "The Judge".

His firm, finely-chiseled features; his kindly, keen face topped by luxuriant white hair made him a distinguished figure on the campus of Notre Dame.

His penetrating mind, fired by enthusiasm yet tempered by patience, made him a distinguished teacher for twenty years as Professor of Economics and Business Law.

His great soul, lover of Christ and of Christ's unfortunates, made him distinguished in his charity; he organized and was the first President of the Vincentian Service Bureau, central agency for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend.

His prominence in community life, his eighteen years practicing law in South Bend, his constant activity in the Community Fund and similar public organizations, coupled with his sense of duty to his country caused him to accept the nomination for, and to become distinguished as, a State Senator, currently entering his second term.

And in all his manifold activities, in the classroom, in business, in public life, in law and in the legislature — he was never known to compromise his Catholicism or his principles of charity and justice. A man of wide interests, diligent and sacrificing in them all, his body could not stand the pace set by his big heart, by his creative, ever active mind, by his deep sympathetic soul; and his body failed him in his illness despite the blood transfusions from generous and devoted students. His body failed him, yes, but never his faith and trust in God's Will and Providence.

During his long illness at the hospital, he constantly offered his suffering to his Crucified Saviour, frequently raising his eyes to the crucifix on the wall above and opposite him. A month ago, a few minutes before he was taken into the operating room, he offered up the inconveniences and sufferings of the operation in honor of and in union with the sufferings of Christ. The evening before his death, though extremely weak, he lifted his hand to point to the crucifix; with effort he murmured resignation to the will of that Saviour, Who faced death for him, "Whatever happens, He will look after things."

May that Saviour look after and welcome this Christian gentleman to the distinguished Court of Heaven; may He look after, protect, and strengthen his widow and four young children surviving.

The funeral will be at St. Joseph's Church, South Bend, Tuesday at 9:30. The pallbearers to be members of the faculty, the State Legislature and civic officials. The student Mass on Sunday was offered for the repose of his soul at the request of the Faculty Club, and many other Masses have been arranged, including a Requiem High Mass by the University on Tuesday morning at 6:25 in Sacred Heart Church.

PRAYERS: Deceased: Brother of Bro. Finbarr, C.S.C.; Leo Leider; Friend of Jim Fagan (Bad); ILL: Friend of John Murphy (Bro.); Uncle of Byron Hayes (Dil); Mother of Bill Sweeney Five Special Intentions.